CLAIMS:

1. A hub cap vent plug which is resistant to penetration by water sprayed under high pressure during vehicle washing, said plug comprising an axially outer end face portion, sidewall portions adapted to mate in fluid-tight relation with an opening in associated hub cap, a small diameter opening terminating at one of its ends in a thin web of the material from which said plug is made, a valve cover having an inner surface spaced closely apart from said end face portion, so as to define at least one transverse opening therein, and a normally closed valve comprising a slit in said web to allow pressure and vacuum to vent through said valve and to resist penetration of pressurized water through said valve.

2. A hub cap vent plug as defined in Claim 1 which includes an enlarged diameter opening communicating with the interior at one end and with said small diameter opening at the other end.

3. A hub cap vent plug as defined in Claim 1 which further includes a stepped passage having at least a first enlarged diameter opening and a second reduced diameter opening communicating with the interior of said hub at one end and with said small diameter opening at the other end.

4. A hub cap vent plug as defined in Claim 1 which includes a radially outer surface portion having axially inner and outer tapered surfaces

with a reduced diameter portion therebetween, said tapered surface being adapted to mate with an opening in fluid tight relation..

5. A hub cap vent plug as defined in Claim 1 wherein said plug is made from an elastomer.

6. A hub cap vent plug as defined in Claim 1 wherein said plug is made from an elastomeric material comprising natural or synthetic rubber.

7. A hub cap vent plug as defined in Claim 1 wherein said elastomeric material is a thermoplastic rubber.

8. A hub cap vent plug as defined in Claim 1 wherein said at least one transverse opening comprises two transverse openings.

9. A hub cap vent plug as defined in Claim 1 wherein said valve cover has a diameter about one-half to one-quarter of the diameter of said axially outer end face portion of said vent plug.

10. A hub cap vent plug which is resistant to penetration by water sprayed under high pressure during vehicle washing, said vent plug comprising an elastomeric main body portion including an axially outer end face portion, an axially inner ring portion, first and second tapered sidewall sections meeting at a reduced diameter portion adapted to fit snugly into a center opening in a hub cap, a cylindrical re-entrant portion adjacent said axially inner ring portion at one end and terminating at an annular transition surface at the

other end, a reduced diameter cylindrical portion communicating at one end with said cylindrical re-entrant portion and terminating at its axially outer portion closely adjacent said axially outer end face portion, and a further reduced diameter cylinder being closed off at one end by a thin web of elastomer, said web having a normally closed valve in the form of two leaflets separated by a slit, thereby permitting air to vent to and from the interior of said hub cap to said valve, said valve being covered by a smaller diameter shroud closely spaced from said axially outer end face portion of said plug and having at least one open passage therein, whereby said shroud will deflect pressurized water away from said valve and said open passage will permit air to pass therethrough.